

July-Dec

# THE BEE

## WASHINGTON

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### OPEN LETTER

To the President of the United States:  
I don't know whether you want the colored vote or not, but there is one thing I do know, and that is the colored voter in 1912 intends to think and act for himself. It looks to me, Mr. President, that both political parties are endeavoring to unload the colored American, and there is nothing for him to do but to make terms with some party for himself.

In speaking of the public school question, Mr. President, and the recommendation you made to Congress to transfer the control of the public schools to the District Commissioners is not approved by the people. Maj. Judson, the Engineer Commissioner, doesn't represent the people. If you will, ask him, Mr. President, to report to you the number of objectionable houses that have been recently erected in close proximity of the colored schools against the wishes of the people.

Also ask him, Mr. President, to give you the number of colored appointments he has made in his office since he has been Commissioner. I mean clerks or messengers, not street cleaners or street sweepers. Also ask him, Mr. President, if a representative place in his office has been given to a colored American since his appointment.

Our public schools, Mr. President, have never been better conducted. The members of the Board of Education serve without pay and they should be given credit for what they do. Maj. Judson doesn't know anything about our public schools. He has no knowledge of the wants of the schools. Why should he meddle, anyway? Does he want to reduce the number of colored teachers?

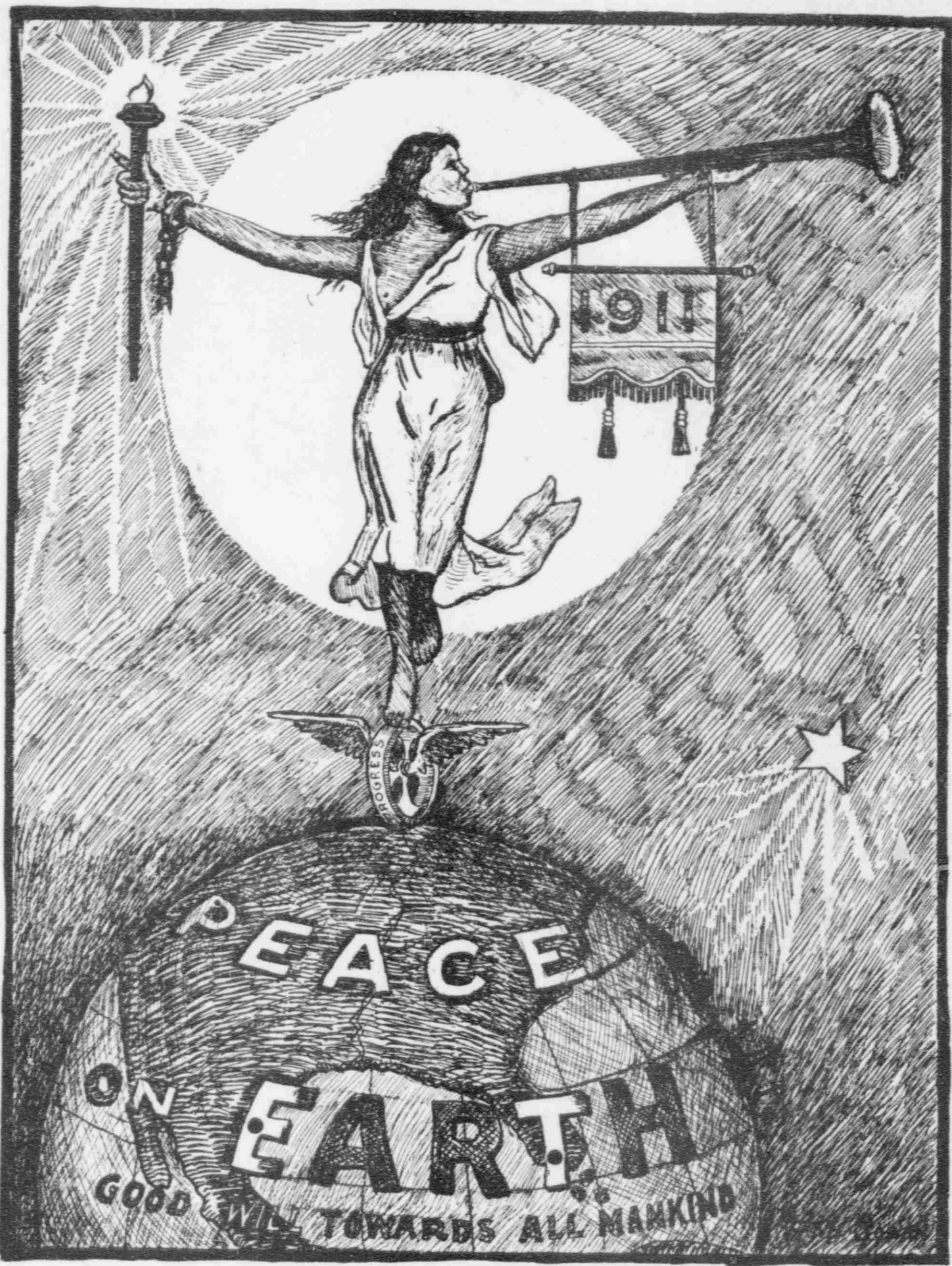
It seems to me, Mr. President, before you made your recommendation to Congress to transfer the schools to the Commissioners you should have requested the Board of Education to give you an estimate of the expenditures. You will be convinced that you have been misinformed, and when the Board sends you a reply, the source from which you received your first information will be weighed in the balance and found wanting.

The judges of the Supreme Court make every effort to appoint good men and women on the Board of Education. If they make mistakes, it is no fault of theirs, because all men make mistakes; but when the appointing power appoints a man whose record is well known, he is to blame. I cannot see how the public schools can be benefited by transferring their control to the Commissioners.

The people have the most abiding faith in the President, Capt. James F. Oyster, and the Board of Education. The people intend to uphold the Board, notwithstanding your recommendation, Mr. President; and believe me when I say that you have been misinformed.

Hoping that you had a most delightful Christmas, and may the New Year realize a change in your policies. With respect and esteem, believe me,

Very respectfully,  
THE EDITOR.



"And Ethiopia shall stretch forth her hand and enlighten the world."

### Public Men And Things

(By the Sage of the Potomac.)

Sixteen years ago to this very day I wended my way over to Anacostia and up Cedar Hill to drink in wisdom at the feet of the Sage of Cedar Hill. In those days I revered Frederick Douglass as one but a little removed from the angels, and I reverence him to-day. In those days I frequently, at every opportunity, went out to his home just to listen to the words of wisdom that fell from his lips. I remember the visit of 16 years ago to-day distinctly, for he let fall this sentence when talking on the race question: "Mark my word, young man, our race will make wonderful strides in advancement, and then will follow for a period a reign of discrimination, seemingly harder to bear than what we have already passed through. But we will survive it and rise, for no power can keep the colored man down."

Just now these words of the late masterful Douglass appear prophetic. There appears now a reign of discrimination, and I wonder if we are now in that period Mr. Douglass prophesied. Notwithstanding all our achievements, in education culture and material possessions, it appears we encounter more prejudices today than we did a decade ago.

I can see Mr. Douglass now as he delivered this sentence. His great, massive frame seated in his big chair; his brow wrinkled with thought. He was a great man, and I received my inspiration from him, and now I recall with great pleasure my frequent visits to him, and the kindly advice he was wont to give me. I pity those who never had the pleasure and honor to visit the sage of Cedar Hill in his own home, and catch the words of wisdom as they dropped from his lips.

I observe that some one, signing himself a "Reader of The Bee," takes exceptions to what I said two weeks ago in my comparison of the men of the present with those of the past. This writing down exceptions reminds me that people are reading me. I am glad of it. I hope "Public Men and Things" will continue to increase in interest and popularity. The gentleman mentions a number of clerks who were in the department at the time Douglass, Bruce, Lynch and Langston were at their zenith. I recall them all, and just to let you know that I have not forgotten that splendid galaxy of colored clerks, permit me to say that "A Reader" overlooked John C. Dancy, J. C. Asbury, Whitfield McKinlay, Tom Jones and Kelly Miller, who, too, were in the departments in those days, and have since garnered success, and brought in the sheaves of accomplishment.

But those he mentioned, and the four I added, were exceptions rather than the rule. In those days appointments were made through political favoritism, while now one is required to pass an examination, and the result is, and quite natural, too, there are a greater number of bright, brainy, clever colored clerks and messengers in the departments today than in those days, those good old days of Auld Lang Sine. Today we have more graduates of colleges. All those whom "A Reader" enumerates were top-notchers, and they achieved something. Just give the young men of today a little opportunity, and they may equal their brainy predecessors.

Kelly Miller was a clerk in the department before he was a professor. J. C. Napier was a clerk in the department before he was a lawyer, banker, and to-be-Recorder of the Treasury. W. C. C. Chase was a clerk in the War Department before he was a lawyer, editor and busy citizen. There is a crop of colored clerks and messengers in the departments today, some of whom may some day be high-classed lawyers, publicists, physicians and presidential appointees. I would not detract one iota from the crown that graces the brow of one of the past to add to the crown of one of the present. Most of those mentioned were intimate friends of mine. Prof. Greener, "Dick" Greener, as we used to call him, was a particular friend of mine, and many hours have we spent together. Bud Napier—it was plain "Bud" with us, before he prefixed Hon. to his cognomen, and affixed lawyer, banker and Register—and I used to take many a stroll together and talk of the far off future. And Dr. William Waring—why, he was my mentor. I pay all homage to those clerks of the earlier days, because they deserve it, and because I was one of them, though my cornucopia was never the horn of plenty, in after years, that some of theirs has been.

And speaking about Rev. William Waring recalls a little incident about Bob Waring. Bob, as we all know, for years was bothered with a bacilla that influenced him to write a book. Several years ago, though I guess he has forgotten the incident, he and I were walking down Pennsylvania avenue, discussing the race question as usual, and in the course of his remarks he frequently used the phrase, "As I see it." When his book, "As We See It" came out, the incident was recalled to my mind, and it occurred to me that this phrase got lodged in one of the cells of Bob's brain, and when he finished or about finished his novel, it broke through the membrane back into prominence, and hence the title he gave to his novel. And speaking of his "As We See It," let me say to you that there is a mighty meritorious novel. "Mighty meritorious" is not so very elegant, grammatically, but is mighty expressive, just as "damn" is at times. Bob Waring has produced a book that he and the race should be proud of. However, I do not fancy the title. Many a book has its advertisement in its title. It seems to me that had Bob given his deserving novel a somewhat more euphonious, mysterious or suggestive title, it would greatly have increased its sales, and I am going to suggest to him that he get out a second edition some time in the future, and rename it. "A Solvable Problem" might serve as an attractive title, for his novel deals with a problem. However, the novel is good, under whatever name it rests. And let me tell you, Bob Waring is no man's dummy.

It looks like we may have a Trade School here in the near future, and when we get it, the thought has occurred to me that what a good idea it would be for some of our high-brows, dicties, and preoccupied officials to learn a trade. Just imagine some of our "big uns" as real At mechanics. For instance, Judge Terrell as a boiler-maker, Armond Scott as a laher, John Dancy as a shoemaker, W. T. Vernon as a tinner, Whitfield McKinlay as an excavator, Roscoe Bruce as a dishwasher, Jim Cobb as a

shoe-shiner, Ralph Tyler as a Pullman-car porter, George Collins as a tile-layer, Dr. Williston as a carpenter, Cyrus Field Adams as a seamstress, Bruce Evans as a stonemason, Dan Murray as a philanthropist, Kelly Miller as a printer, Rev. Corrothers as a farmer on shares, Rev. Grimke as a plasterer, etc. By all means let us have a trade school, and let's see, as soon as its doors open, that some of its advocates are enrolled as pupils.

Well, I see another Ohioan has got there, Charles Cottrell having been appointed Collector at Honolulu. I wonder what meat these Ohioans feed upon? For hustle-and-get-there, and for "getting-all-the-ripe persimmons," commend me to that crowd that call themselves natives of the Buckeye State. None of them ever fail. If they fell into the Potomac they would float to shore with a mouth full of fish and toes full of pearls. They simply can't help themselves. However, I do think they might roll over and give some of the rest a chance to warm their feet.

I ran into Dick Tompkins the other day, and it recalled those dizzy days of the past, when Dick was the arbiter of fashion, the gay Brummell, the entrance to society. In his day, but it has been a few years back, Dick was the nattiest dresser, the greatest patron of music, and the nearest approach to a black Ward McAllister we had. If you got Dick's O. K. everything in society was easy for you, and if you could get your clothes made by the same tailor that made Dick's you were sure to be correctly dressed. Dick was the one "IT" that we had. Then he smoked nothing less than three-for-quarter, and those only semi-occasionally, most usually straight "tenners" and two-3's. Now Dick pulls on a pipe that is strong enough to raise the Maine from Havana harbor. And I have not seen Dick with a patent leather pair of shoes on since the panic of 1903. He is old sober-sides now—cares little for style and nothing for dress. The whims, fancies, and frailties of youth have been discarded. In those days when we wished to get up anything, it was first "see Dick." He danced divinely, conversed with the pretty wall-flowers like the Duke of Buckingham, dressed like an E. Parry Wall, and spent money like a Vanderbilt. But he is older now, and more sedate. He is still the interesting conversationalist, and the same lover of music, and the same primere bookkeeper of old. As a pace-setter Washington has not produced another Dick, alias Richard Tompkins. We will not call him the "grand old man," even though he wears a hair-ess patch on top of his head, for Dick does not wish to be included in the "green memory" class. I will just call him one of the "onces-was-but-never-again" class, for this class is a sort of indefinite connection between "then and now," but hardly ever eligible for membership in the "down-and-out" class. Ah, there Richard, remember that little drive years ago, and behind your own gelding, too, when you said, "They can't keep a good man down?"

### THE NEGRO PROBLEM.

Dr. Washington Sustained in the Town Controlled by Negroes.

To the Editor of The Sun.  
Sir: Comments on your editorial article of Dec. 2 by our leading Negro journal, The New York Age, caused me to procure and read carefully what The Sun says on "A Curious Document."

There is no longer any division among a large majority of the thoughtful members of my race on the sentiment you expressed. The Negro race, like others, can make its way to the top only by patience and perseverance, and while a few calamity howlers and a whining impotent contingent may succeed in creating a bad impression here and there, even to the extent of getting the ears of some across the water, there are enough of us toiling upward in the night, as well as in the day, to make good.

The masses of my people, as well as the leaders in this section, believe in the doctrine preached by Dr. Washington and his kind, and while protesting all the way and at all times against unjust discrimination and insisting on a square deal, yet they trust the American people, North and South, for the final and complete fulfillment of all guaranteed us under the Constitution of this country, the best and most open door to all its people, rich and poor, high and low, upon the face of the earth.

CHARLES BANKS,  
Cashier, Bank of Mound Bayou.  
Mound Bayou, Miss., Dec. 12.

### Foreign Mission Work.

Rev. A. R. Griggs, General Field Secretary of the National Baptist Foreign Mission Board, is in the city, the guest of Rev. I. Toliver, 1145 Twenty-first street northwest. Rev. Griggs preached for Rev. Toliver Sunday, Dec. 25, and will preach for Rev. W. Bishop Johnson at the Second Baptist Church to-morrow evening. He will be in the city several weeks in the interest of foreign mission work. Any pastor wishing his services will call at the above number.

### Dr. Washington in Chicago.

Dr. Booker T. Washington began on last Sunday a busy round of engagements in Chicago. He delivered a number of addresses, one at the Chicago University, and visited as many as possible of the business places operated by colored people.—Chicago Tribune.

### PARAGRAPHIC NEWS

(By Miss G. B. Maxfield.)

I wish you a happy and prosperous New Year.

One of the largest payrolls ever signed in the Pittsburgh district was signed December 24, and \$7,000,000 was distributed to men who work in the industrial plants.

According to consular reports, in a few years Germany in all likelihood will consume nothing but imported meats. There is an immense decrease noted in the number of animals for slaughter, according to last count, made October 10, 1910.

Jack Johnson sent Christmas greeting telegrams to James J. Jeffries and Tommy Burns, both of whom he came out victorious when in battle.

A series of inoculation experiments which may mark an epoch in the history of abdominal surgery, will shortly be made the basis of a new preventive treatment for peritonitis at one of the great London hospitals. Admiral George Dewey, the hero of Manila, celebrated his seventy-third birthday anniversary last Monday. Many prominent diplomats and army and navy officials called on the admiral to congratulate him. John Gray, the inventor, a prominent member of the British Association, has just concluded a long series of experiments in what he calls new phrenology. It is done by having colored light flashes thrown into the eye.

The Wright Company will settle an annuity of approximately \$1,000 upon the widow and children of Ralph Johnstone, the aviator killed in a Wright biplane at Denver, Colo.

John D. Rockefeller sent all the school teachers at the Pocantico Hills and Sleepy Hollow schools a \$10 gold piece.

Miss Helen M. Gould gave a turkey and cranberries to every employe on her estate. She also gave \$5 and \$10 gold pieces to the telephone girls at Tarrytown and Irvington exchanges, and to the express and freight agents.

The Christmas gift of 537 acres of land at Mount Braddock, near Uniontown, Pa., to be used as a site for charitable and correctional institutions, has been announced. The tract is valued at \$100,000.

A colored baseball league, taking in at least five cities, will be formed in Chicago at a meeting held at 5324 State street, at the call of Beauregard F. Mosely, president of the Leland Giants.

Prof. T. Fukushima, a noted Japanese educator, died quite suddenly in Roanoke, Va. He is survived by a wife and one child.

After being confined several years together in jail, the whites and blacks will be separated in the county jail in Georgetown, Del. Jim Crow jail! Just think of it.

Hereafter no white person may move into a block in Baltimore where the majority of the residents are colored, nor may a colored person move into a block where the majority of residents are white. It is expected that this act will be taken to the courts to test its constitutionality.

The fourteenth annual meeting of the American Negro Academy will be held Friday evening at Presbyterian Church. The session will be devoted to exercises commemorative of the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Charles Sumner.

Steven Bundy, a colored porter on the New York Central lines, after twenty-seven years of continuous service, has been retired. It is said during his service in the company he has accumulated property that is worth \$140,000.

It is stated the receivers of the Savings Bank, Grand United Order of True Reformers, are ready to report to the chancery court of the city of Richmond. Where is was expected that the assets would amount to from two to three hundred thousand dollars, the actual proceeds will not reach one hundred thousand dollars.

It is claimed by some that Shakespeare was a Frenchman, a native of the old province of Burgundy, and his name was originally Jacques Pierre, which the English turned into Shakespeare.

Samuel and William Mucie, the famous "Christmas twins" of Babylon, L. I., celebrated their ninety-fifth birthday anniversary with their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Both believe they owe their life to the fact that neither has never smoked or tasted intoxicants.

Gen. Pierre M. F. Frederique, one of the leading spirits of the progressive party in Haiti, who for years was identified with Gen. Firmin, is dead at his home in this city. He was forty-four years old.

The population of the Government Hospital for the Insane here June 30, 1910, was 2,916, an increase over previous year of 64 patients, according to the annual report of the superintendent of that institution.

The Negro Masons of Oklahoma have arranged to build a \$40,000 building at Boley.

Statistics indicate that less than one-fifth of the population of Portugal can read and write.

Harry W. Bass, of the Seventh ward of Philadelphia, will be the first Negro member of the Pennsylvania Legislature. He was elected to the Assembly from the Sixth district. The Seventh ward has a large Negro registration.

A Normal and Industrial School for Negro youths is to be established at Atlanta, Ga. Three hundred and thirty-five acres of land is being purchased for this purpose.

International Conference on Africa.  
TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 26.—Booker T. Washington, head of the well-known industrial school for Negroes located at this place, has formulated plans and has recently issued invitations for an international conference at Tuskegee of all persons in Europe or America who are directly or indirectly interested in the education and improvement of the Negro peoples of Africa.

The purpose of this conference will be to bring together not only students of colonial and racial questions, but more particularly those who, either as missionaries, teachers or government officials, are actually engaged in any way in practical and constructive work which seeks to build up Africa by educating and improving the character and condition of the native peoples.

This conference will meet at Tuskegee about the middle of January, 1912. Its purpose will be to get from the people who are on the ground a clearer and more definite notion of the actual problems involved in the redemption of the African peoples; to enable those who are engaged in work in Africa to see for themselves what is being done at Tuskegee in the way of educating the black man, and to enable them to decide for themselves to what extent the methods employed at the Tuskegee school can be used to advantage in Africa.

For a number of years past missionaries from all parts of the world have been coming in increasing numbers to visit and study the methods of the Tuskegee Institute, and it is believed that this conference will prove a welcome opportunity to many others to do the same. It is expected that a permanent organization of "the Friends of Africa" may be effected as a result of this conference, which will aid in organizing, stimulating and directing the work of education and civilization in the Dark Continent.

Negro Segregation in Baltimore.  
The constitutionality of the bill for the segregation of Negroes signed this week by Mayor Mahool, of Baltimore, will no doubt be determined in the courts. The legal test can hardly be avoided. People of color everywhere naturally think of the Baltimore ordinance as an indignity to their race, a form of discrimination to be stoutly

### THE JAMES BROTHERS.

What They Did for the Poor.

The James Brothers, the popular undertakers of this city, showed their liberality Christmas Day by looking after the distressed and suffering by their magnanimous gifts. These brothers not only bury the dead, but in the modest, unostentatious way, help considerably the living. These brothers aim to please everybody, and out of a little give a little.

The Bee feels that such an act of charity is worthy of mention regardless of the modesty of the firm. These brothers sent to the various churches of Washington Christmas Day from 10 to 20 baskets of good things to eat for the poor of the churches. The baskets contained chickens, canned goods, vegetables, fruit, cranberries, hominy, celery, flour, meal, etc. Many poor members were seen coming from the churches Christmas Day home to be enjoyed and singing the praises of the James Brothers and saying: "God bless those boys. Inasmuch as you have done it unto them you have done it unto me."